

REMARKS

Claims 1, and new claims 18-19, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite all the limitations of claim 4, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1. There were no intervening claims.

In addition to claim 4, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 5 and 6 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 5-6 have been re-written as new independent claims 18 and 19 respectively, wherein they each incorporate all the limitations of their base claim 1. Independent claim 17, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable has been cancelled.

Claims 2-17 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicant's right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed.

New claims 18 and 19 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments and additions.

Rejection Over Oyachi et al. in view of Usui et al.

Claims 1-3, and 7, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oyachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,613,403) in view of Usui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,591,268).

Rejection Over Oyachi et al. in view of Usui et al. and further in view of Kaji et al.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oyachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,613,403) in view of Usui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,591,268), and further in view of Kaji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,895,586).

Claims 4-6 were indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten to incorporate all the limitations of the base claim, which is claim1. Claim 1 was re-written to

incorporate all the limitations of claim 4 and claim 1. New claim 18 was submitted as incorporating all the limitations of claims 5 and 1, while new claim 19 was submitted to incorporate all the limitations of claims 6 and 1. The cancellation of claims 2-17 makes moot the rejections as shown above.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are believed to have been overcome for at least the above reasons. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the objections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicant's agent would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should a fee or any other required fees be due, please charge them to the Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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